# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM AND CULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2228
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
INDIA AS A TOURIST DESTINATION
AKHILESH SINGH

**Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India is hosting the forthcoming Pacific Asia Travel Association Conference in New Delhi during April, 2002;

(b) if so, the plans drawn up to project India as a major tourist destination during the said Conference;

(c) whether the tourism and travel industry are likely to be provided with more concessions/incentives to attract foreign tourists to India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure a better coordination amongst the Ministries of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Railways to offer a combined package to tourists coming from abroad?

## Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes Sir. 51st Annual Conference of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is being hosted from 14th to 18th April 2002 in New Delhi.

(b): A number of programmes have been proposed which includes a Welcome evening hosted by Union Minister of Tourism and Culture which will show case the folk culture and cuisines of India. Besides, in the opening ceremony on 15th April, a flavour of Indian culture will be added in the choreographed form while in the closing function the rich variety of Indian textiles will be presented.

Special packages have been designed for the participants, their spouses and media for pre and post conference tours.

(c): To attract foreign tourists to India, several concessions/incentives have been announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech on 28/2/2002 to support the Travel and Tourism Industry.

(d): A Special Tourism Task Force has already been constituted with the representatives of related Ministries and Departments of Government of India and Travel and Tourism Industry to look into the various issues for promotion of tourism and to remove the irritants and bottlenecks hampering the growth of tourism.